

Message

From: Voigt, Gregory [Voigt.Gregory@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/2/2022 6:56:02 PM
To: John.Yagecic@drbc.gov
CC: Jackson, Wayne [Jackson.Wayne@epa.gov]; Lookenbill, Michael [mlookenbil@pa.gov]; Alebus, Marzooq [marzooq.alebus@dep.nj.gov]; Bott, Michael M. (DNREC) [Michael.Bott@delaware.gov]
Subject: RE: Estuary Aquatic Life Use Review - DRBC Draft Reports
Attachments: 12-2-22 EPA Comments- DRBC Draft Attainability Analysis and Supporting Docs.pdf

Hi John, attached for your consideration are EPA's comments on the draft attainability analysis and supporting technical reports. It dawned on me that I have not been sharing EPA's comments on previous reports with the coregulators, so I am correcting that deficiency here. As noted in our letter, we plan to send a separate set of comments on the 'Linking Uses' report in separate correspondence. You should see that towards the end of next week.

Please reach out if you have any questions. Otherwise we'll look forward to further discussion at the next coregulators meeting. Thanks again for all your hard work on this, and for providing us an opportunity to review.



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From: Yagecic, John [DRBC] <John.Yagecic@drbc.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 5:00 PM
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Subject: Estuary Aquatic Life Use Review - DRBC Draft Reports

Importance: High

Dear Water Quality Advisory Committee Participants,

Today, on behalf of the DRBC, I am pleased to share the draft report entitled *Analysis of Attainability: Improving Dissolved Oxygen and Aquatic Life Uses in the Delaware River Estuary*. This draft report, and several other supporting draft reports, are available at https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/WQAC_index.html.

The draft reports published today are the culmination of five years of an intensive and technical effort known as the Aquatic Life Designated Use Study. The study involved data collection, the development of water quality models, the completion of scientific analyses, and collaboration with multiple stakeholders. This work fulfills key elements of the Commission's 2017 directive to the staff to complete an analysis of attainability (AA) to inform the regulatory process of upgrading aquatic life designated uses and criteria for the Delaware River Estuary.

The draft AA not only identifies achievable dissolved oxygen conditions in the portion of the Delaware Estuary that does not currently support fish propagation (i.e., reproduction and juvenile development), but also identifies the feasible treatment technologies for reducing effluent ammonia loads from specific wastewater treatment plants, provides cost estimates and assesses affordability impacts.

These draft reports will be discussed at the next WQAC meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2022, starting at 9:30 a.m. The link to register for this Zoom Webinar and the draft agenda will be shared with you once available.

Based on the AA reports when finalized, the DRBC will propose a revised designated use and draft water quality criteria to protect that use. The process will be one in which all stakeholders and members of the public will have an opportunity to provide their input and perspectives.

On behalf of the DRBC, I thank the WQAC and all interested parties for their engagement and collaboration throughout this effort. We look forward to continuing the dialogue on this important issue as we work to finalize these reports.

Full information on the DRBC's Aquatic Life Designated Use Study is available at <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/quality/designated-use.html>; the draft reports are also available on this page.

Sincerely,
John Yagecic

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**John Yagecic, P.E.**

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609-883-9500 x271 (Currently working remotely, please use email)